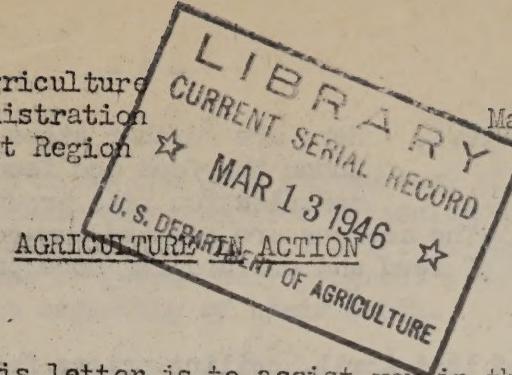


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Ad Hoc

United States Department of Agriculture
Production and Marketing Administration
Field Service Branch, Northeast Region
Washington 25, D. C.

March 6, 1946



Dear Committeeen:

The information included in this letter is to assist you in the administration of Production and Marketing Administration programs and provide understanding of related actions.

A. W. Manchester

A. W. Manchester
Director, Northeast Region

RECENT ACTIONS
ON FOOD PROGRAM

Recent actions following the first meeting of the Famine Emergency Committee at the White House are:

Ceiling prices on grain -- wheat, corn, barley, oats, and grain sorghums -- have been raised. Proposed ceilings on rye, to become effective June 1, are increased.

Changes are being made in corn and processed grain regulations to aid in restoring normal distribution by country elevators and carload sellers.

Subsidies paid to cattle feeders will be discontinued June 30. Lowering of ceiling prices on heavier weight butcher hogs after September 1 and lowering the subsidy on heavier hogs before September 1 are under consideration.

A conference of farm, trade, and processing representatives has been called to discuss more equitable distribution and more complete mobilization of feed grain supplies.

Pooling by the Nation's freight cars to speed up shipments of food to ports is planned by the Office of Defense Transportation.

U.S. people have been asked to cut down their consumption of wheat by 25 percent, conserve fats and oil, and eliminate food waste in every way.

The use of grain in making industrial alcohol and of wheat in making malt beverages is prohibited. Use of other grains in brewing is restricted.

Federally-inspected slaughterers are required to set aside larger portions of their pork output and slaughterers in 10 more States must set aside substantial portions of their beef, veal, and mutton production for shipment abroad. Supplies of fats and vegetable oils allotted domestic manufacturers of shortening, salad, and cooking oils will be reduced April 1.

"Time means lives," said Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, urging speed in relieving the desperate situation abroad. "Every day and every hour that pass mean less wheat will be exported and more people will starve."

* * *

--"There are nearly 25,000 less freight cars on the rails in this country now than there were 3 years ago. For months now the grain movement has been seriously impeded for lack of cars. Also, we imported in the first 6 months of last year 880 thousand tons of feed. This year we don't expect over 50,000 tons."

--A. W. Manchester - Excerpt from Radio Transcription, March 7, 1946

USDA ANNOUNCES LIVESTOCK,
GRAIN CHANGES

Here are further steps the Government is taking under the food and feed conservation program after consultation with producers and representatives of farm organizations. The actions are pointed toward adjusting livestock feeding to reduced supplies of feed and encouraging more prompt marketing of grain supplies:

1. As announced last April, ceiling prices for hogs will not be changed before September 1. However, early consideration will be given to lowering the ceiling on heavier weight butcher hogs after September 1, and to lowering the subsidy on heavier hogs before that date. Purpose—to encourage farmers to finish hogs at lighter weights and thus make more efficient use of limited feed grains.
2. Cattle feeder subsidy will be terminated on June 30. Purpose of this subsidy (50 cents per 100 pounds on cattle of certain weights and grades) was to encourage cattle feeding operations. Present feed situation does not justify its continuation.
3. Ceiling prices for grains are immediately raised, per bushel, as follows: Wheat, 3 cents; corn, 3 cents; barley, 4 cents; oats, 2 cents; rye, 4 cents (these become effective June 1); grain sorghums, 9 cents per 100 pounds. These adjustments are to meet legal requirements. The new ceilings reflect present parity with, as in the past, a cushion to allow for possible increases in parity during the months ahead.
4. OPA is changing regulations on corn and processed grains to aid in restoring normal distribution by country elevators and carload sellers.
5. The Department of Agriculture has called a conference of farm, trade, and processing representatives to discuss a War Food Order to bring about equitable distribution and best use of feed grain supplies.

NEW GRAIN
CONSERVATION MEASURES

Three recent developments on the grain front are expected to make more wheat available for human consumption and to keep a fair distribution of protein to livestock

producers. They are:

Use of Grain for Commercial Alcohol Prohibited: The use of all grains in the production of ethyl and butyl is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Department of Agriculture. This provision, same as that applied to the distilling industry, was issued after inquiries indicated that some processors were contemplating a renewal of grain use for alcohol manufacture. Stocks of grain alcohol held by the RFC are being made available to industrial processors to relieve this shortage.

Use of Grains by Brewers Restricted: A 30-percent reduction below that used last year in the use of permitted grains for all brewers except the smallest ones became effective March 1. The order prohibits the use of wheat or any product derived from wheat and rice, except screenings and brewers' rice, in the production of malt beverages.

Five Percent of March Meal is Set Aside: Processors must set aside 5 percent of their March production of soybean, cottonseed, linseed, and peanut meal for shipment to 27 designated States in which shortages exist. Meal is being sold by processors through regular trade channels.

MARCH 8 IS MEMORABLE
DATE FOR FARMERS

March 8 marks the 13th Anniversary of the beginning of economic democracy for agriculture. May 12, 1933, the enactment date of the original Agricultural Adjustment Act, gave farmers a charter to guide their progress toward economic security. But the earlier date marked the beginning of their march.

On March 8, 1933, the call went out from President Franklin D. Roosevelt for a national conference of farmers and farm leaders. At this conference, begun two days later, all the major farm organizations joined in recommending legislation to deal with the agricultural emergency.

In March 1933, the farm depression -- as well as the national depression -- had reached a crisis. Distress on farms had led here and there even to violence -- to mortgage-foreclosure riots, milk dumping, and martial law.

Two months later, the new Congress, meeting in special session, passed the first Triple-A Act. The new law was a landmark in the history of American agriculture, embodying the essential lessons learned in the decades of farm experience.

Operation of the program was given to local committees of farmers. Thus, for almost the first time, farmers had the right and the opportunity to influence the production, marketing, and price of their own products. As the years advanced, the AAA program has been broadened and refined. But these objectives still stand:

1. A fair share of the national income for farm families and a fair exchange value for farm products.
2. Conservation and wise use of agricultural resources, and
3. Safeguarding consumer supplies of food and fiber.

PACIFIC COAST FEED
MIXERS ALLOWED MORE GRAIN

The Department of Agriculture recognizes that the Pacific Coast areas will be largely dependent upon wheat as a feed grain until such time as larger supplies of corn and other feed grains can be shipped into those areas. Programs are under consideration which we hope will be effective in making more corn and other feed grains available to the Pacific coast areas.

However, in order to avoid unreasonable hardships pending the effectuation of such programs, the amount of wheat authorized to be used under Section (b) of War Food Order 144 by each mixed feed manufacturer in the Pacific Coast States will be increased in such amount as may be necessary (taking into consideration all other feed grains available to them) to permit a total use of grain in the manufacture of mixed feeds each calendar month up to 85 percent of the amount of grain so used in the corresponding calendar month of 1945. States affected are: California, Oregon, Washington, Utah, Idaho, and Nevada.

GROWERS WARNED OF
POSSIBLE CEILINGS
ON CIGAR LEAF TOBACCO

Growers have been told that the 1946 crop of cigar leaf tobacco may be subject to price control. OPA says this is not yet definite, but current prices are so high that they threaten ceiling prices of cigars. While the 1945 crop was exempted from price control, ceilings are already in existence in the continuing cigar leaf regulations. So a formal administrative notice about ceilings, which usually must be given growers 15 days in advance of planting an annual crop, is not required in this case.

PRIORITIES ASSISTANCE FOR
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Priorities Regulation 33 is the order issued by the Civilian Production Administration governing the use of priorities for construction materials to be used in the reconversion or veterans' housing program. This regulation provides for setting aside portions of the total production of construction materials. The set-asides apply to common and face brick, clay sewer pipe, structural tile, gypsum board, gypsum lath, cast iron soil pipe and fittings, cast iron radiation, bathtubs, lumber and millwork. Each material is covered by a separate direction to PR-33.

Farmers who are veterans of World War II are eligible for assistance under PR-33. They may apply to the nearest Federal Housing Administration office for HH ratings for the materials listed above.

The lumber procedure is outlined here to illustrate the application of the regulation. Direction I to PR-33 covers the lumber procedure. Under this Direction, 40% of the production of soft wood lumber must be set aside by mills which produce two million or more board feet annually. Hard maple, oak, and pecan flooring lumber is set aside up to 100% in grades 2 and 3-A.

To fill orders under the veterans' housing program, a lumber dealer may order each month construction lumber in an amount equal to 5 percent of his January 1, 1942, softwood lumber inventory, or an amount equal to his HH orders from customers for that month, or in a calendar quarter two carloads at the rate of not over one carload in a single month. These are referred to as certified orders. Lumber received on certified orders by a dealer must be held for 60 days to fill HH orders, or emergency orders rated AAA by the Civilian Production Administration, or certified orders from other dealers or distributors. After the 60 day period lumber not required for these orders may be sold without regard to PR-33. Dealers, of course, may order without ratings and sell lumber so received without regard to PR-33. Any such lumber would come from the 60% of production not required to be set aside for the veterans' housing program or from mills producing less than two million board feet annually.

The assistance under this program is limited to materials for housing.

General priorities assistance for lumber and other items may be applied for under the terms of Civilian Production Administration Order PR-28. Farmers may apply for CC ratings under the terms of this order by submitting applications form CPA(or WPB)-541-A, Revised, to the Civilian Production Administration, Washington 25, D. C. Either veterans or non-veterans may apply under this regulation. Urgent or emergency needs will receive more favorable consideration than will other types of cases. The CC rating is not extendible. It applies to goods in stock.

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE
SCHEDULED MARCH 11-13

State office personnel will meet in Washington, D. C., March 11, 12, and 13 to review problems and procedures relative to adjustment of allocations of funds and materials to States, counties, and farms under the 1946 program. Those attending the meeting include: L. A. Chatto, Maine; E.P. Robinson, New Hampshire; H. W. Soule, Vermont; W. T. Clark, Connecticut; S. R. Parker, Massachusetts; R. S. Shaw, Rhode Island; H. A. Weaver, New York; H. E. Propst, New Jersey; and C. W. Jester, Pennsylvania.

SPURIOUS LADINO SEED
SALES WIDESPREAD --
SAYS EXTENSION SPECIALIST

Quoted below, in part, is a letter from E.R. Jackman,
Extension specialist, Oregon, to agronomists in
middle western and Atlantic Coast States:

"As you know, the seed of Ladino clover is indistinguishable from that of common white clover. During the war years, in an effort to expand the production of Ladino seed, the Government adopted a guaranteed price to the producer of \$1.50 per pound for certified seed of the Red and Blue-tag grades. This had the desired effect of increasing production, but unfortunately it has had another effect detrimental to growers of true Ladino and especially detrimental to the people who buy the seed. The price is now so far above the price of common white clover that the temptation to palm off common white clover as Ladino has proved too great to be resisted by large numbers of people.

"As a result, the eastern States have been flooded this year with many hundreds of thousands of pounds of seed sold as Ladino that varies all the way from Ladino down to pure white clover. So much of this spurious Ladino seed has been sold that it has been difficult to sell the true certified Ladino. As a result, very little true Ladino has been shipped east, whereas many cars of this "affidavit" Ladino (or whatever one wants to call it) have moved from California, Oregon, Idaho, and probably other States.

"It works out about like this: A seed grower has a white clover pasture from which he desires to cut seed. He brings in, for example, a ton of seed, and his dealer tells him that he can pay him 50 cents a pound for it if it is white clover, but he can pay him \$1.40 if he thinks it may be Ladino. With such a stimulus to his memory, the grower is pretty likely to remember that someone at some time saw this field and told him it resembled Ladino.

"The only possible solution to this problem . . . is widespread publicity in all of the eastern States and especially publicity reaching the seed dealers stressing the point that no seed sold as Ladino can be guaranteed as Ladino unless it is certified. In this State, we inspect practically every field of true Ladino that will be cut for seed. Therefore, every field that is eligible for sale as Ladino produces certified seed. It follows then that from Oregon at least, no true Ladino clover seed moves out unless it is certified. Many fields, of course, are rejected due to white clover mixtures, and some of the product from these fields moves as uncertified or so-called "affidavit" Ladino. One can be reasonably certain that if he buys uncertified seed from Oregon, he is not getting Ladino clover.

"This situation is not paralleled in California. In that State quite a lot of true Ladino clover is harvested without inspection and without certification. Even in such cases no one can know for sure that such fields are not mixed, because no field inspection has been made by a qualified person. In the case of Idaho, I would judge that a high percentage of the uncertified Ladino is mixed in varying amounts with white clover and some of it is pure white clover. A large number of pastures were seeded some years ago in south Idaho to Ladino clover and grass mixtures, and since Ladino has become high priced, many of these pastures are cut for seed. In the meantime, in the great majority of cases, close pasturing has resulted in encroachment of white clover to a greater or lesser degree.

"We have recently had another type of certification. A seed company may sell Ladino as "field inspected." Such inspections, made by an interested party are certainly not official, and may or may not result in accurate determination.

(continued next page)

(Continued from page 5)

"I think that something drastic is going to have to be done in the way of publicity. As the matter stands, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the State Experiment Stations, and the Extension Service are all behind Ladino clover publicity, and I rather expect that there will be entire counties where Ladino clover is sold rather heavily and not a single pound of it this year is true Ladino. This may be true of entire States. Under such circumstances, we may expect the use of Ladino clover to decline rapidly."

LIME ORDERS, DELIVERIES
STILL LAGGING BEHIND GOALS

Approximately 25 percent of the lime tonnage estimated to be ordered under the 1946 ACP had been ordered from county offices as of February 22, 1946, and only six percent had been delivered. To reach goals set in the fall by the Regional Committee, 40 percent should be ordered by March 1 and 20 percent delivered. Individual State reports follow:

State	Estimated Tonnage	Orders Rec'd From County Offices	Percentage	Deliveries Made	Percentage
Me.	92,000	21,963	24	6,924	8
N. H.	38,700	16,744	43	6,022	16
Vt.	73,915	38,998	53	25,319	34
Mass.	79,785	31,494	39	9,748	12
R. I.	8,000	2,900	36	801	10
Conn.	59,460	12,210	21	3,511	6
N. Y.	728,390	118,031	16	26,471	4
N. J.	100,000	30,008	30	10,363	10
Penna.	857,051	240,572	28	31,746	4
Total	2,037,301	512,929	25	120,905	6

OUTLOOK FOR FOREIGN FARM WORKERS

Farm labor throughout the Nation is scarcely adequate just now, but there is some reason to hope that the supply will approach 1945 levels by the time major crops are ready for harvest.

Negotiations have been completed with Bahamian, Jamaican, Honduran, and other West Indies Governments for 1946 importations of workers, and Labor Branch representatives of the Department of Agriculture are conferring with the Mexican Government. There is also a possibility that some war prisoners may again help to harvest U. S. crops this year. When Mexican negotiations are completed, tentative State allocations of workers will be announced.

Last year, approximately 110,000 foreign laborers and 135,000 prisoners were used. The foreign-labor figure dropped to around 96,000 during harvest.

Instructions given field representatives include full use (1) of all local sources, (2) of sources within the State, and (3) of sources within other States where there are surpluses. Only as a last resort, should requests be filed for foreign workers.

Present supply of foreign labor is 28,653, including Mexican Nationals, Jamaicans, Bahamians, and a few Newfoundlanders. Most of these are in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Florida. The critical areas this year, as far as foreign workers are concerned, probably will be the Western and Southern citrus belts, most truck crop areas, and wheat and sugarbeet sections.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES Parity prices of farm products continued to advance during the month ended February 15, the index of prices paid by farmers (including interest and taxes) reaching another new 25-year high, the USDA reports. At 178% of its 1910-14 average in mid-February, the parity index was up 1 point from mid-January and 6 points higher than a year ago.

The general level of prices received for farm products also rose 1 point from Jan. 15 to Feb. 15, with sharp increases in prices received by farmers for rye, truck crops, cattle, and cotton, and moderate increases in fruit and egg prices and relatively minor downturns in tobacco and dairy products. As a result, the index of prices received by farmers stood at 207% of its 1909-14 average in mid-February, 8 points above the February 1945 level, and at the 25-year high reached in December 1925.

1945 ACP PAYMENTS 1945 Agricultural Conservation Program payments certified through February 22, 1946, have been reported as follows by Northeast State offices. Also shown is the percentage of total estimated payments certified.

State	Amt. Certified	Percentage	State	Amt. Certified	Percentage
Maine	\$ 137,531	45.8	Conn.	\$ None	-
N.H.	4,952	4.0	N.Y.	77,529	7.0
Vt.	None		N.J.	117,932	17.0
Mass.	46,839	21.8	Penna.	464,823	29.0
R.I.	2,092	8.4	Total	\$ 851,700	19.7

SALES PRICES ON CCC WOOL REDUCED To encourage the use of domestic wool by U. S. manufacturers, further reductions have been made in the ceiling prices of wool sold by Commodity Credit Corporation.

This price cut added to a reduction of last November makes average ceiling prices on CCC wool about $8\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound (grease basis) lower than originally scheduled.

The action will not affect CCC prices paid to growers under the 1945 wool purchase program, which has been extended to November 1, 1946.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS
Stations, USDA, are:

A few of the results of Experiment Stations research during 1945 cited in the annual report of the Chief of the Office of Experiment

Deficiencies of the minor elements have limited crop yields in many areas. Findings of the stations that small additions to the soil of such elements as boron, magnesium, manganese, zinc, and copper result in large yield increases are leading to general use by farmers of the needed element in particular areas. Thus Vermont farmers are beginning to apply boron widely over the State. One community used a carload, or enough to treat 50,000 acres. The studies of the Vermont station extending over a dozen or more years and covering tests of 46 soils to a three-foot depth have shown that small amounts of boron greatly increase production and quality of a number of crops, including alfalfa, apples, potatoes, clover, sweet corn, tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce, beets, beans, and turnips. For example, 40 pounds of borax gave 3 more tons of alfalfa hay during a three-year period. The borax cost \$1.20; the extra hay was worth \$36. Vermont fruit growers are using boron to prevent internal cork in apples.

AN OUTSTANDING CROP
INSURANCE SALESMAN

Agent: William A. (Pat) Watkins, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Former AAA employee; experience in farming. Sold life insurance for a few years, and is acquainted with large number of producers in Tuscaloosa County. Motivated by interest in AAA farm program and crop insurance, by friendship for county administrative officer, and by profit that could be made from the commissions.

Record: Sold 292 contracts out of 320 received in county. On last day of the sales campaign, he worked 15 hours, contacted 51 producers, and sold 40 contracts.

Methods: Most effective arguments were: (1) Low cost of insurance for the protection offered, (2) fact that it was sponsored by Federal Government, (3) reminding farmer of some crop failure on his or a neighbor's farm in recent years, (4) telling farmer that he would have a guaranteed income by insuring his crop and properly working it, and (5) that in case of a crop failure the indemnity would mean so much to the producer's family and to his future farming operations.

Contacted farmers individually at home, in field, or anywhere except in crowds. Found out how many acres were to be planted to cotton, how much cash producer would invest in entire farming operations. Then explained that crop insurance would usually guarantee a return of more than the money he was investing in cotton, corn, hay, and other crops. Discussed premium and coverage in terms of money, comparing premium to number of days' work or number of pounds of fertilizer, thus showing that premium was very low.

Most Serious Handicaps: Low yields and short time he had to contact farmers. Farmers were busy preparing land, which reduced number of contacts that could be made per day.

SHELLS OF NATION'S
EGGS REQUIRE VAST
TONNAGE OF CALCIUM

Illustrating the need for an adequate supply of minerals in the feed of laying hens, Dr. H. R. Bird, a scientist of the USDA, estimates that, in 1945, the hens of the U.S. required about 320,000 tons of calcium to put proper shells on the eggs they laid. Phosphorus, manganese, and several other mineral elements are likewise essential in poultry feeding. Diets usually recommended for laying hens contain about 2.25% of calcium and 0.75% of phosphorus; those for growing chickens contain about 1% of calcium and 0.6% of phosphorus.

APRIL 1 MATURITY DATE
FOR 1945 POTATO LOANS

All 1945 Irish potato loans mature on April 1, 1946. If they have not already done so, county committees should immediately notify each borrower having an outstanding loan of such maturity date.

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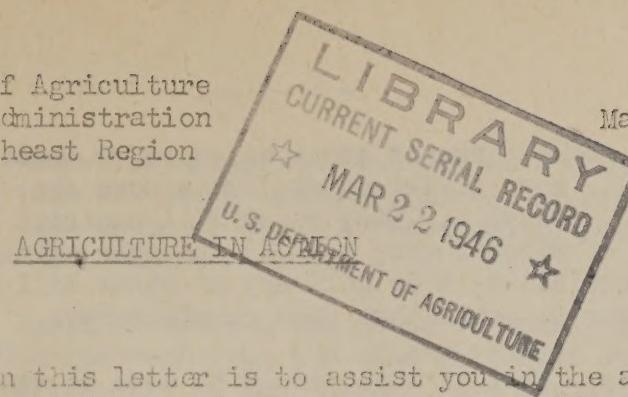
(Agriculture in Action - Issued weekly and distributed in the Northeast to State AAA Committeemen, State Offices of FSB; Farmer Fieldmen; County offices in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New Hampshire; County Committeemen in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island)

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United States Department of Agriculture
Production and Marketing Administration
Field Service Branch, Northeast Region
Washington 25, D. C.

March 13, 1946



Dear Committeeen:

The information included in this letter is to assist you in the administration of Production and Marketing Administration programs and provide understanding of related actions.

A. W. Manchester

A. W. Manchester
Director, Northeast Region

COUNTY AAA CHAIRMEN NAMED
EMERGENCY FOOD MANAGERS

State PMA Directors and county AAA chairmen have been named emergency food program managers by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson in the drive to speed food to the starving peoples of the world.

Their duties will include:

- Enlisting the cooperation of State and county USDA Councils in coordinating the famine emergency program.
- Setting local food conservation goals on wheat, food fats and oils.
- Marshalling citizens' organizations and food trades to carry out the voluntary program.
- Present background and objectives of the drive to the entire population through local organizations.

Secretary Anderson has wired all USDA Councils urging wholehearted cooperation and asked all field agencies of the Department to "pitch in."

Meanwhile, numerous large groups in the country -- including national church organizations, representatives of the food industry, and the U. S. Army -- have pledged their cooperation in conserving food.

The world food situation is growing more critical every day, according to Herbert Lehman, Director-General of UNRRA. In February, the ratio of food to total supplies shipped abroad by UNRRA dropped sharply.

There has not been "one single ameliorating factor" in the food situation in the past few weeks, Mr. Lehman said. "The governments of the main supplying countries will have to make supreme efforts if widespread disaster is to be averted," he continued.

* * *

--"As your President, I appeal to you again -- and to all Americans everywhere -- to prove your faith and your belief in the teachings of God by doing your share to save the starving millions in Europe and Asia and Africa. Share your food by eating less, and prevent millions from dying of starvation. Reduce your abundance so that others may have a crust of bread."

--President Truman at Columbus, Ohio, March 6, 1946.

USE OF WHEAT MILL FEEDS RESTRICTED

Most recent steps to conserve wheat and channel it to its most efficient and human uses are: (1) An order, effective March 1, 1946, which will restrict use of wheat mill feeds in the manufacture of mixed feeds; and (2) An order permitting the manufacture of farina and to prohibit sale or delivery of wheat mill feeds to other than feed dealers or flour to other than food manufacturers.

Gist of the first is: That no wheat could be used in mixed feeds. No person may, during any calendar month, use wheat mill feeds in the manufacture of mixed feeds, including poultry feed, in excess of two-thirds of the quantity he used during the corresponding calendar month of 1945.

The same order also limits, effective April 1, receipts of wheat mill feeds by any one person during any calendar quarter to one-sixth of his total receipts of wheat mill feeds during the calendar year 1945.

The second order makes provision for the movement of wheat through normal trade channels by merchandisers who have been authorized to issue supply certificates against wheat owned by country shippers and other merchandisers.

Millers may manufacture farina up to 5 percent, provided the weight of the farina and flour is not less than 80 percent of the cleaned wheat from which the farina and flour were made.

Also, that no miller shall sell or deliver wheat mill feeds to any person except feeders or persons regularly engaged in the business of manufacturing or distributing feed; nor flour to any person except for home consumption by the recipient; or to a person regularly engaged in distributing flour or processing it into other products.

Bakers and retailers do not have to furnish inventory certificates, and Pacific Coast feed mixers are allowed enough wheat to permit total use of grain up to 85 percent of grain used during corresponding month of 1945.

LOWER RATE OF LIVESTOCK FEEDING URGED

Evidence of the urgent need for farmers to reduce the current heavy rate of livestock feeding is summarized by the Production and Marketing Admin-

istration in a report on the feed situation made available this week by the USDA. Immediate action must be taken, the report emphasizes, if critical needs for grain for human consumption in other parts of the world are to be met and the danger of excessive livestock liquidation avoided in this country.

Clear evidence of heavy feeding is found in official statistics, the report states. Hogs marketed recently have averaged about 20 pounds heavier than a year ago and heavier than any other year of record. A larger proportion of highly finished cattle are being marketed. Milk cows are being fed grain and concentrates at record or near-record rates. The rate of egg production per layer has been at an all-time high. The average weight of turkeys and broiler chickens has been heavier than usual.

Changes announced on March 1 in subsidies and price ceilings for livestock and grains are expected to help adjust livestock feeding to the reduced supplies of feed grains and to encourage more prompt marketing of grain supplies.

ANDERSON TO KENT
WITH NORTHEAST STATE
AAA COMMITTEE APR. 12

Secretary Anderson will attend a Northeast Regional Conference at Boston April 12, according to an announcement by A. W. Manchester, Regional Director, Field Service Branch.

Scheduled for two days, April 11 and 12, the group attending the conference will include State AAA Committeemen from the nine Northeast States, State PMA Directors, State Commissioners of Agriculture, AAA Executive Assistants, and Assistant State PMA Directors. State Extension Directors are especially urged to attend in their capacity as members of State AAA Committees.

The program committee, Harris W. Soule, Robert J. Howard, and Charles A. Collins, will meet in Washington this week to prepare an agenda which is expected to include, among other things, the job assigned to the AAA organization in connection with the current food and feed emergency.

HOW CONSUMERS CAN HELP

"Reach for a potato instead of bread!"

"Chicken every Sunday and weekdays too!"

Americans can eat patriotically if they follow these slogans. Here's why:

Potatoes are the traditional substitute for bread, and U. S. potato supplies are currently plentiful. Wheat is needed to feed the desperately hungry people in Europe, and we can get along nicely by eating a little less bread. Ingenious cooks can use potatoes in many ways to save bread.

Chicken. A lot of red meat (and wheat) is needed for Europe. If Americans eat more chicken, (1) less wheat will be consumed as livestock and poultry feed, and (2) more wheat and red meat can be exported.

Secretary Anderson says: "The food situation in many foreign countries demands the direct use of grain, principally wheat, for human food to save millions of people from hunger and starvation in the next few months. The emergency developing in poultry is caused in part by the need to conserve wheat for this purpose. The consequent shortage of feed comes at a time when storage holdings of all poultry are at record levels and when current supplies of broilers and fryers are moving into consumer channels in record numbers from major producing areas. . . .

"With current freezer stocks of poultry amounting to more than 356 million pounds and with public freezer occupancy now about 83 percent of capacity, the need for increased consumption and home canning or storage of chickens for future use is plain."

POTATO CEILINGS CONTINUE SUSPENDED

Ceiling prices on potatoes will continue to be suspended for the present, OPA has announced. However, they will be reestablished without prior warning, and trend in potato prices result in prices staying 5.

White potatoes will automatically go back under control on April 11, if OPA does not reestablish ceilings before that time and if the suspension period is not again extended.

POULTRY PRICE SUPPORTS ANNOUNCED A price-support program for dressed chickens, aimed at (1) relieving the already critical feed situation, and (2) helping poultrymen market chickens at a fair price, became effective March 8. On that date the USDA began its purchase program for dressed chickens, except young chickens weighing $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less alive, from co-operative organizations, dealers and processors of various types designed to reflect a U. S. average farm price for live chickens of net weight less than 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of parity. Currently, this will mean support for live poultry at a U. S. average farm price of 18.5 cents a lb. with variations for type, weight, and location.

The announced prices for dressed poultry to reflect the support price will vary according to weights, types and quality, and according to four zones established under the program in recognition of usual freight differentials between areas of production and large consumer markets.

Said Secretary Anderson: "With current freezer stocks of poultry amounting to more than 365 million lbs. and with public freezer occupancy now about 33% of capacity, the need for increased consumption and home canning or storage of chickens for future use is plain."

Purchases of poultry will be made from those who certify they have paid producers not less than the announced support prices for live poultry. All poultry purchased by the USDA will be subject to Federal inspection. The purchases will be made at announced prices on an offer-and-acceptance basis, with deliveries accepted in carlots of poultry packed in ordinary dressed poultry containers. Offers will be received each Wednesday, beginning March 20. The acceptance dates will be each following Friday.

Disposition will be in accordance with legal requirements on the poultry purchased by (1) sales through commercial trade channels (2) sales for export (3) sales to other governmental agencies (4) transfers for use under the school lunch program or by Federal, State, or municipal institutions, and (5) by conversion to canned form for disposition through the private designation.

In view of the heavy supply of old poultry already in storage, the nation's poultry curators will be called upon to process a substantial part of the dressed poultry purchased by the USDA for price-support purposes. Under this plan the canned poultry can be stored for reasonably long periods in ordinary storage space of which there is plenty available. This will also help in the disposition of poultry to foreign outlets, few of which are equipped to handle poultry in frozen form.

Prices in Zone IV which includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, Washington, Oregon, and California, which will prevail until further notice, are as follows:

Young Chickens -- Producer average support prices (over $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds live weight)	20.00 cents
Grade A Young Chickens (N.Y. style dressed weighing over 36 lbs. net per box of 12 birds)	20.75 cents
Grade B Young Chickens (N.Y. style dressed weighing over 36 lbs. net per box of 12 birds)	28.25 cents

(continued from page 4)

<u>Prices</u>	<u>Zone IV</u>
Fowl - Producer average support prices (over 4½ lbs. live weight)	18.50 cents
Grade A Fowl (N.Y. style dressed weighing over 48 lbs. net per box of 12 birds)	27.00 cents
Grade B. Fowl (N.Y. style dressed weighing over 48 pounds net per box of 12 birds)	25.50 cents
Fowl - Producer average support prices (live weight from 3½ to 4½ lbs.)	17.00 cents
Grade A Fowl (N.Y. style dressed weighing from 36 to 48 pounds net per box of 12 birds)	25.50 cents
Grade B Fowl (N.Y. style dressed weighing from 36 to 48 lbs. net per box of 12 birds)	24.00 cents

**PASTURE IMPROVEMENT
PRACTICES HELP BEAT
THE FEED PINCH**

With the feed situation in for a progressive tightening as the emergency program to relieve the world food crisis gathers speed, farmers in all parts of the country will want to be thinking harder than ever on feed supplements and pasture improvement. And that means that even more serious consideration will be given to the AAA conservation practices that produce more and better pastures.

This way of meeting the feed situation has two aspects -- one for the immediate present and another for the longer pull of the next couple of years. Indications now are that feed will be "tight" through 1947. Fortunately, both sides of the problem may be met by the same basic approach -- intensive use of the pasture improvement practices in the Agricultural Conservation Program.

These include use of lime, superphosphate, potash, mixed fertilizer, seeding pasture mixtures and Ladino clover, and pasture clearance. All of these practices are directed to the more effective use of pasture and the conservation of grain feed. Some, of course, will produce more immediate returns than others, but all contribute toward greater pasture resources in the months just ahead.

POTASH PICTURE IS NOT BRIGHT Equitable distribution of available potash supplies will play a vital part in the new food production program to supply relief needs abroad, Government officials recently told the industry.

While production of potash in this country is at record levels, it is not expected to be sufficient to supply even domestic demand. Further increases in American potash production are unlikely at the present time, and primary exports from important supplying sources such as France and Germany are not now in sight.

Representatives of firms engaged in potash mining, acting as an advisory committee to the Civilian Production Administration, have recommended that primary potash salts be put back under allocation until present excessive demands are reduced to more normal levels. This was believed to be the only way of meeting fairly the heavy requirements for this basic ingredient of farm fertilizers. The proposal will be studied by Government officials.

FARM MACHINERY SITUATION CRITICAL In the President's address of February 6, 1946, he pointed out that "as a whole a food crisis has developed which may prove to be the worst in modern times." The Department of Agriculture has been re-examining and revising crop goals in an effort to meet the situation. At the present time, the goals are 11,000,000 acres higher than the 1945 planted acreage.

Minimum farm machinery needs for this crop year were set at more than 30 percent over the previous year's production. The over-all production of farm machinery during the last six months of 1945 not only failed to meet the estimated minimum needs, but were actually slightly less than for the corresponding period of the previous year, according to the Field Service Branch, USDA.

Material shortages and manpower problems have seriously retarded production during 1946. At the present time, approximately 40 percent of the productive capacity of the farm machinery industry is completely closed down due to industrial arrest in the manufacturers' plants. In addition, the interruption in steel production has retarded farm machinery manufacture in the remainder of the industry. Since it will take time for the steel industry to obtain full capacity production and since the needs of other industries for raw materials will also be great, farm machinery manufacture may be further retarded.

The Department of Agriculture is seriously concerned about the situation and the effect it may have on the President's program. Every possible effort is being made by the Department to expedite production of the needed equipment.

URGENT FOOD NEEDS IN INDIA, CEYLON India and Ceylon face a critical food shortage. Delegations from the two countries have presented import needs to the Combined Food Board in Washington -- minimum needs that will actually stave off starvation.

India's delegate stated very urgent needs for two million tons of cereals -- principally wheat and rice. The worst drought in 50 years between Dec. 1 and Jan. 1 caused India's wheat harvest to be almost zero. Fifty percent of the average diet in India consists of cereals.

Ceylon's delegate stated that 45,000 tons of rice and flour per month are needed to maintain the stringent cereal ration of 1200 calories per person.

After consideration of the needs of India and Ceylon, the Combined Food Board will formulate recommendations to member Governments on the distribution of supplies.

SMALLEST WORLD WHEAT CROP SINCE 1929 The smallest world wheat crop since 1929 is one big reason for the current world shortage of this important food. World wheat production in 1945 totaled 14.1 billion bushels which was 3 percent less than in 1944. The biggest drop was in Europe where the 1945 harvest was 36 percent below normal. The U. S. harvest was a record-breaking 1.1 billion bushels, but Australia and New Zealand had below-average crops. The small world crop is accentuated by shortages of other grains, which has greatly increased the wheat needs of importing countries.

DAIRY COWS
NEED MINERALS

The following is quoted from an article by John E. Ladd in the February issue of "Better Rural Life" published monthly by the Rhode Island State College Extension Service, Kingston, R.I.

"Do dairy cattle need minerals? In order that the ration be balanced, the right kind and the right amount of minerals are just as essential as protein, carbohydrates and fats or the vitamins.

"Minerals play an important part in every cell of the cow's body and are found abundantly in milk.

"There may be a deficiency of minerals in the dairy cows' ration. When they are fed on poor roughage and inferior grain rations or fed hay from depleted hayfields a mineral deficiency may occur.

"Soil conditions determine the amounts of the essential minerals in pasture grass, silage and hay. The moisture available frequently determines the amount of a mineral present in hays and forage crops.

"Calcium is necessary to nourish the bones of dairy cows and in the production of milk. Fortunately, roughages are good sources of calcium. The clovers and alfalfa are especially rich in calcium. Grasses such as red top, timothy, and the bent varieties contain much less calcium. . . "

APPROXIMATELY 60% OF
POTATO LOANS REPAYED

With a maturity date of April 1 nearing for all 1945 potato loans, approximately 60 percent have been liquidated, according to the March 7 State reports:

State	No. of Loans	Partly paid	Completely Repaid	Cwt. of U.S. No. 1's	Cwt. of U.S. No. 1, B's & 2's	Amount Originally	Amount
				Orig.	Loaned	Orig.	Loaned
Me.	2753	1938	1159	11,370,227.2	1,314,452.8	\$15,556,171.85	\$10,051,450.51
N.H.	36	2	4	51,811.4	7,166.8	.86,217.79	15,880.32
Vt.	7	0	4	13,572.9	1,679.2	23,753.68	14,763.18
Mass.	27	11	14	158,159.0	14,062.0	256,184.35	172,094.00
R.I.	10	6	3	91,030.0	9,375.0	148,167.10	77,134.03
Conn.	41	7	21	150,783.4	21,670.4	248,865.57	203,800.90
N.Y.	100	7	21	182,484.0	29,876.8	300,272.52	82,415.82
N.J.	8	0	3	11,558.2	1,261.1	18,852.58	10,329.83
Penna.	166	25	73	174,519.4	40,716.7	280,267.90	149,463.16
Totals	3148	1996	1302	12,204,144.6	1,440,230.8	\$16,923,753.34	\$10,775,331.75

1945 ACP PAYMENTS About 23.2 percent of the 1945 estimated Agricultural Conservation Program payments were certified in the Northeast Region through March 1, 1946, according to the following State reports:

State	Certified	Percentage	State	Certified	Percentage
Me.	\$150,027	50	Conn.	\$ 4,952	3.2
N.H.	6,792	5.4	N.Y.	119,262	10.8
Vt.	13,277	11.5	N.J.	117,932	17.0
Mass.	46,885	21.9	Penna.	544,299	34.0
R.I.	2,192	8.3	Total	\$1,005,618	23.2

1946 CROP
PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

Opening of the 1946 crop season finds generally favorable growing prospects across the country. Recent weather has improved prospects with rains during the first part of March easing moisture conditions, according to the Department of Agriculture.

The condition of winter wheat is about the same as last December. Prospects are more favorable in Texas, southern and eastern Kansas, and eastern Nebraska; a little less favorable in Ohio, western Nebraska, northwestern Kansas, Colorado and California.

Emphasizing the need for another year of heavy farm production, the Department says that farmers generally should have enough seeds, insecticides, and spray materials. Fertilizers will be fairly abundant. Supplies of farm machinery and repair parts are slow to improve, and labor is no more abundant than during the war although probably more efficient, the Department adds.

EGG PRICE REPORTS

Slight additional price increases occurred in Maine and Rhode Island during the week ending February 28, according to the weekly egg price reports submitted by those States. The price of "graded eggs - top grade" in New England ranged from 38 cents to 41 cents per dozen.

New York egg prices increased last week on an average of approximately 1 to 2 cents per dozen as compared with the previous week's prices. Greene County, New York, was the only county in the State reporting prices below 29 cents per dozen. This county reports 28 cents per dozen for "current receipts - straight run" eggs.

New Jersey's report shows prices ranging up to 44 3/4 cents per dozen for "graded eggs - top grade" in the northern part of the State with a State average price for the week of roughly 42 cents per dozen for this grade.

Pennsylvania egg prices in general continued to decline. Egg prices were weakest in the western part of the State. The sharpest break in price occurred in Armstrong County where a decrease of 6 cents per dozen for "current receipts - straight run" eggs was noted. This county reports a price of 25 cents a dozen compared with the previous week's price of 31 cents. Crawford, Mercer, Lawrence, Bedford, and Clinton counties also reported prices below 29 cents.

Although reports are not yet complete for the week ending March 7, they indicate spotted declines in the New England area with a slightly stronger feeling evident in Pennsylvania egg prices.

MILK OUTPUT DOWN;
EGGS UP

U.S. milk production during February slumped 2 percent below the same month a year ago but egg production gained 3 percent over a year ago.

The average rate of lay per hen -- 12.2 eggs -- was the highest ever reached for the month. Milk output per cow also was at a record high level for February but there were both fewer milk cows and fewer laying hens on farms.

* * *

(Agriculture in Action -- Issued weekly and distributed in the Northeast to State AAA committeemen; State offices of PMA; Farmer Fieldmen; County Offices in Mass., Conn., Penna., N.J., and N.H.; County Committeemen in N.J., Penna., N.H., and R.I.)

Radio Transcription
A. W. Manchester, Director
Northeast Region, Field Service Br.
Production & Marketing Adm., USDA
March 14, 1946 - 6:15 a.m.
Station WBZ - Boston, Mass.

"Starving Time"

There's one principal subject on the food and agriculture front now. It's starvation in Europe and Asia and what are we going to do about it.

The spring used to be known as the "starving time" a couple of centuries ago. It's the "starving time" this year for many millions of our neighbors.

Right now we are far behind in our schedule of shipments of wheat to the hungry nations. The lag can be attributed mainly to transportation problems. Measures have now been taken to overcome these difficulties.

We are approaching the time, however, when the issue will be not solely one of moving an abundant supply; it will involve having a supply to move.

It is going to be primarily a question of grains — wheat first, but also corn and rye and barley and oats.

It is for that reason that we in this country are being asked to put grain conservation into effect, both in our own personal consumption and in the feeding of our livestock.

The last of last week, emergency food program managers were designated in each State and county to try to organize conservation on both fronts -- food and feed.

The State Managers named are the U. S. Department of Agriculture State Production and Marketing Directors. For the Northeastern States they are: Fred Nutter for Maine, Ralph Graham for New Hampshire, Harris Soule for Vermont, Sumner Parker for Massachusetts, Ralph Shaw for Rhode Island, Walter Clark for Connecticut, Bob Howard for New York, Jacob Blakeslee for New Jersey, and Clyde Zehner for Pennsylvania..

These are the men who are responsible for organizing and coordinating the work of getting less grain used in this country in order that there may be more available to ship abroad. The elected chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Association is the county manager in each county.

These men's job is one of organization. It is hoped that every agency, public or private, that can help will pitch in to do all that it can to meet one of the greatest food crises of our time. Any group that can contribute should get in touch with their county manager. We need teamwork.

The managers are especially instructed to enlist the cooperation of USDA Councils in this work. These recently-organized councils bring together the responsible heads of most of the agricultural agencies. They have the setup with which to act very promptly. But it is hoped that the cooperation will extend far beyond the organizations making up the councils.

It would not be appropriate for me to try to outline the specific steps that can be taken to bring about the conservation of flour and bread and the other critical human foods. The specialists in those fields -- including those greatest specialists of all, the housewives -- will take that over.

I do want to say, though, that potatoes and vegetables can take the place of a good part of the bread and the cereals. And we can raise plenty of them.

The garden-planting time is moving north pretty fast. I feel quite snug about the fact that I already have my peas and quite a few of the hardy vegetables planted. But I live just now on the edge of Washington where spring comes early -- comes falteringly, it's true, with some backsliding, but still comes early.

This seems to be one more year for home gardens, and for the planting of plenty of vegetables and potatoes by commercial growers.

In regard to the conservation of feed grains -- and just as important, making the distribution of the somewhat reduced supplies more even and dependable -- I cannot at the moment make a definite announcement. I hope to be able to describe the specific measures that will be put into effect by next week. For there is every indication that the chaotic situation that has been developing over the past few months will be regulated and stabilized.

The same livestock goals that were announced earlier and repeated recently will undoubtedly be the basis of the feed program. They include a 15 percent cut from last year in laying hens and chicks raised for layers, also substantial cuts in turkeys and broilers. They do not include any request for reduction in the numbers of cows, nor for anything more so far as the dairyman is concerned than careful feeding to avoid waste.

Any farmer who adjusts to these livestock goals should be able to look forward with a good deal more confidence in a dependable if limited supply. He should be able to go forward with his farm production without so much worrying about where the feed is coming from or how he is going to get it.

It will still be important for him, if he can, to raise a little more feed. He can help out greatly that way.

One can't listen to the radio and read the papers now without becoming gravely worried over the worsening international situation.

None of us want war. None of us want to drift into the pettiness, grasping, bickering and bitterness that breed war. Our hope for peace has to lie in bigness, breadth, human sympathy and true neighborliness. They are the only practical way as well as the only good way.

The world food shortage gives us an opportunity and a test -- an opportunity to express tangibly the spirit that alone can serve as the foundation of lasting peace, and a test of our worthiness to be citizens of a world neighborly enough to keep lasting peace.

1.42
Ad 4 Age

Copy 3 United States Department of Agriculture
Production and Marketing Administration
FSA Service Branch, Northeast Region
Washington 25, D. C.

March 25, 1945

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

Your commitment:

The information included in this issue is designed to help you in the education of Production and Marketing Administration personnel while informing them of related actions.

A. W. Manchester

A. W. Manchester
Director, Northeast Region

EFFECT OF HUNGER

Effects of hunger on children are graphically illustrated in findings of a British project of X-rayed hungry Dutch children, reported by Eleanor Roosevelt.

The children needed shoes two sizes larger than would be normal for the size of their clothes. Their shoes also wore out twice as fast as shoes worn by normal children. X-ray pictures showed that the children's feet were misshapen bones. Their feet, therefore, spread and dragged as they walked. This in turn made them shuffle along and wear out their shoes.

More vitamin and better food largely remedied the condition.

WHAT'S THIS BIT?

It happened in Frankfurt, Germany, when, women, children, and babies were lying across the entire expanse of the floor in a railway station.

One father was chewing hunks of bread for his children. A boy stopped him and dive under the table to eat some of the bread, but munching the bread. A group of Polish boys between 12 and 17 started a "demonstration." Everybody followed, jumping and shouting. After a while a group of American MP's came in and restored order.

That scene is being reenacted all over Europe today. Children fight for bread, and small orphans wander the streets as professional beggars. They even steal for bread.

Americans can help put bread into the mouths of poor or bone children. They can increase their daily consumption. They can think of yellow-faced European children when they reach for the second slice of bread.

If every man, woman and child in the United States reduced the use of bread by three slices a day in the home, almost three-quarters of a million tons of wheat would be freed for shipment overseas in the next 90 days.

If you save a little, you can help a lot.

(Source: Collier's Weekly)

WORLD FOOD CRISIS
NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Combined Food Board, representing the United States, Great Britain, and Canada, is faced with some fateful decisions during the next few weeks.

The Board must divide an estimated 13 million tons of wheat and other food grains available for the first half of 1946 among hunger-ridden countries who say they need at least 20 million tons to prevent death for many of their peoples.

This fact was made public in a report released by the Board as Americans started to do their bit toward conserving food and livestock feed in order to ship more food abroad.

President Truman's food emergency committee has asked consumers to buy 40 percent less wheat products and 20 percent less fats, oils, and farmers to cut down on use of wheat for livestock feed.

The Combined Food Board makes this review of the present world outlook for major foods:

Bread grains and rice: No chance of filling the wide gap between requirements and supplies so that starvation and hunger can be averted for large groups in Europe and Asia . . . Of the 13 million tons expected to be exported during 1945-46, North America should furnish 9 million tons (336,000,000 bu.).

Fats and oils: Supplies are even less than expected because of sharp reduction in Indian exports of groundnuts and a disappointing whaling season. England has reduced its domestic fats ration and Canada, its butter ration.

Sugar: 1946 production somewhat higher than in 1945 but available supplies will be less since it was necessary last year to dip into reserve stocks. Political disturbances have prevented exports from Java.

Meat: If a better balance is obtained between livestock numbers and feed supplies, there may be more meat in 1946 than in 1945 although this may bring a shortage later on.

Meanwhile, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that U. S. civilians received nearly four-fifths of the available U. S. food supplies during the first 3 months of this year. The civilian share the first 3 months was only one percent less than the share for all of 1945 (79.8 percent vs 81.3 percent).

Other facts in the food crisis:

- At present levels, U. S. civilians will eat 10 to 12 percent more food than before the war, and about the same as last year. These estimates will be reduced to the extent that the conservation program is effective.
- Canada is exporting food at the highest rate in history. She is now shipping abroad one million bushels of wheat each working day.
- The rice shortage is as serious as that of wheat. Exportable supplies of rice are now estimated at 2.5 million tons in 1946 against stated requirements of 5 million tons.
- The world bread crisis will not end this year. Alarm is felt for the 1946-47 year since reserve stocks of grains will be at a minimum.
- Russia has agreed to sell at least 500,000 tons of grain to France.

THE FEED SITUATION
—MY IT'S TIGHT

Nutshell explanation of the tight feed situation:

(1) The combined stocks of corn, oats and barley on Jan. 1 per animal unit were two percent smaller than a year earlier, but there was substantially more livestock in the corn-barley surplus-producing areas. Consequently, smaller quantities of these grains are available for deficit-feed areas.

(2) High rates of feeding, caused by favorable livestock-feed price ratios, have slipped into feed supplies at a fast pace. Hog marketing weights have averaged 20 pounds heavier than a year ago — heavier than any year on record; an unusual proportion of high quality steers have been marketed; milk cows have been fed large quantities of concentrates; hens have been fed to high production records; and turkeys and chicken broilers have been fed to record weight. The demands for animal feeds and grain for non-feed purposes have further complicated the picture.

DRY BEAN PRICE
SUPPORTS RAISED

The Government support price program on 1946-crop dry beans will increase returns to farmers by 25 cents to \$1.10 per hundred pounds above their 1945 crop prices, depending upon the class of beans and the location of the growing area. Higher prices were set to encourage greater production of dry beans in 1946.

The smallest crop in 10 years was harvested last year because of reduced acreage and unfavorable weather. The Department of Agriculture estimates that by the time the 1946 crop is ready for market the supply of beans will be almost exhausted. The production goal for this year is 5 million bags higher than the 12.3 million bags produced in 1945.

The Department of Agriculture price supports range from \$0.50 per hundred pounds to \$8.75 per hundred pounds on various types of beans. All prices are for U. S. No. 1 cleaned and bagged dry beans in 100 pound containers with all charges paid in carload lots f.o.b. cars at shipping points.

Prices will be supported by CCC purchases of beans from dealers and by loans to growers. Dealers must furnish evidence that they have paid the equivalent of support prices to the grower. No subsidies will be paid to farmers on the 1946 crop of dry beans, but proposed increases in ceiling prices reflect the 1945 subsidy payments to growers.

The following are support prices and ceilings, respectively, for classes of beans grown in the Northeast: Pea and kidney white, 37 and 37.50; Red Kidney, 38.75 and 39.25; Marrow, no support and 38.75; White Kidney, no support and 39.85; Yelloweye, no support and 37.75. These prices are for U. S. No. 1. U. S. No. 2's are 15 cents less and U. S. CHP and U. S. Extra No. 1 are 10 cents more than prices above.

GOOD SOIL AND GOOD
FOOD GO TOGETHER

N. E. Dodd, Director of the Field Service Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration, recently told the Associated Women of the American Farm Bureau Federation that research work was finding a definite relationship between the content of the soil and the food grown from the soil.

"The research job is not yet completed but enough has been done to indicate to me that if we want good nutritious food we must look to our soils," he explained. "That's why the first job in good nutrition for our people is up to the folks who farm the land. . . If we don't care for the soil, we will not be getting the full value from our food. Soil conservation and good nutrition go together."

F.O.B. POTATO PRICE
SUPPORTS ANNOUNCED

A schedule of f.o.b. prices for accepting early and late potatoes under the 1946 Irish potato price support program has been announced by the Department of Agriculture as additional protection to growers. The prices, which apply to potatoes qualifying under customary commercial standards, are for sacked and loaded potatoes as well as those in bulk. Purchases will be made by the Department on an order basis -- that is, the grower must fill the specifications of the Department on the type of delivery.

All growers and their associations or agents are eligible to participate in the program as are certified dealers. State Potato Marketing Committees, now being organized, will certify dealers.

Also included in the announcement was assurance that prices of potatoes lower than U. S. No. 1, exclusive of culls, will be supported if necessary.

Schedule of f.o.b. Support Prices on 1946-Crop Irish Potatoes (Late)

State and Area	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Connecticut		\$1.95	\$2.05	\$2.10	\$2.15	\$2.25
Maine, Aroostook			1.65	1.70	1.80	1.90
Maine, Other			1.75	1.80	1.90	2.00
Massachusetts		1.95	2.05	2.10	2.15	2.25
New Hampshire			2.05	2.10	2.15	2.25
New Jersey	1.95	1.95	2.05	2.10	2.15	2.25
New York (Long Island)	1.95	1.95	2.05	2.10	2.15	2.25
New York (Other)		1.95	1.95	2.00	2.10	2.20
Pennsylvania		1.95	1.95	2.00	2.10	2.20
Rhode Island		1.95	2.05	2.10	2.15	2.25
Vermont			2.05	2.10	2.15	2.25

The support price for intermediate potatoes in New Jersey will be \$1.95 from the beginning of the season through August 31.

In arriving at the f.o.b. schedule of prices for the 1946 support program a deduction of 20 cents per cwt. was made generally from the 1945 support prices for U. S. No. 1 grade potatoes. The exceptions to a general deduction of 20 cents per cwt. for U. S. No. 1's from the 1945 prices are as follows:

State	Month	Deduction per Cwt.
Connecticut	August	25 cents
Maine (Aroostook - Premium)	Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.	30 "
Massachusetts	August	25 "
New Jersey (Premium)	August	25 "
New Jersey (Other)	August	25 "
New Jersey (Other)	Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.	15 "
New York (Long Island-Premium)	August	25 "
New York (Long Island-Other)	August	25 "
New York (Long Island-Other)	Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.	15 "
Rhode Island	August	25 "

* * *

—To secure still more meat and lard to meet world food needs, the USDA has extended the set-aside provisions now in effect on these products to about 100 non-Federally inspected packing plants. The action will require these plants to set aside for Government purchase specified percentages of their output of beef, veal, mutton, pork and lard. Only Army style beef is left out of the action.

MACHINERY FAR BELOW
FARMERS' NEEDS

Farm machinery production increased to \$61,199,366 in January from \$6,177,786 in January, 1945, according to the Civilian Production Administration; but is still far below farmers' needs.

February production figures will show a sharp decline, OPA said, because two of the largest producers are suffering complete work stoppages and another large producer is practically closed down on account of lack of parts.

December farm machinery production amounted to \$55,083,694 -- about the November figure. Domestic water systems and harvesting machinery showed the largest January gain over the same month in 1945.

Here are some comparisons of dollar production totals (based on reports from 300 manufacturers, representing 90 percent of the industry):

	January 1945	January 1946
Planting, seeding and fertilizing equipment . . .	\$1,929,123	\$1,679,040
Plows and listers	1,581,460	1,597,942
Cultivators and weeders	1,796,065	1,657,281
Harvesting machinery	3,476,675	4,432,080
Haying machinery	1,390,804	1,533,749
Tractors, wheel type	15,268,585	15,167,235
Repairs	10,082,699	14,261,698

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson has appealed to other government agencies, manufacturers, labor, and dealers to cooperate in every possible way to make more farm machinery, equipment, and supplies available for the current crop year.

Seriously lagging for some months, farm machinery production has been further crippled recently by steel shortages and work stoppages in machinery plants. Meanwhile, the Nation's crop goals have been increased by 14 million acres more than last year.

Unless more farm equipment and food processing machinery becomes available soon, full-scale food production for a hungry world will be sharply curtailed, the Secretary warned.

CONTINUED BROILER
REDUCTION NEEDED

Commercial broiler producers are urged to continue their present rate of reducing flocks. The Department of Agriculture says that the serious feed situation demands that broiler output be at least 30 percent below last year.

Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia broiler producers had 30 percent fewer chicks started this January and February than during the same months last year. Because of the large number of chicks started last fall, the present rate of reduction must continue if output is to be held 30 percent below 1945.

DEMAND FOR LEGUME
SEED REMAINS HIGH

The demand for legume seed has been steadily increasing both in this country and in Allied and in liberated areas.

Acreages harvested for seed in 1944 and 1945, together with the 1946 goal are as follows:

	'44 Acres Harvested	'45 Acres Harvested	1946 Goals
Alfalfa	968,000	835,000	1,200,000 acres
Red Clover	2,427,000	2,156,000	2,480,000 "
Alsike	125,000	142,000	190,000 "

1945 ACP PROGRESS
REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

The summary of State Office reports of progress on the 1945 Agricultural Conservation Program and enrollments in the 1946 program are shown below for the Northeast Region.

State	Report of Performance			Applie. for Payment			Farms Enrolled		
	Est.	Farms	% Re-	Est.	Rec'd		1945	1946	%
	Part.	Rep't'g	porting	Total	State	%			
State	Farms	Perf.	Perf.	Appl.	Office	Rec'd	1945	1946	%
Me.	11,886	9,997	86.3	3,360	1,896	56.3	12,873	10,146	80.0
N.H.	5,605	5,176	92.3	1,025	222	21.6	5,833	5,648	96.8
Vt.	12,929	12,929	100.0	2,593	707	27.2	13,242	11,022	83.2
Mass.	9,486	8,270	87.2	4,611	1,334	28.9	10,431	8,266	79.2
Conn.	5,501	3,092	56.2	2,250			5,633	2,996	53.2
R.I.	961	719	74.8	377	172	45.6	961	686	71.4
N.Y.	74,352	65,732	88.4	26,466	1,820	6.9	77,219	71,708	92.9
N.J.	11,860	11,189	94.3	10,102	4,313	42.7	12,993	11,125	85.6
Penna.	86,935	78,524	90.3	33,936	12,031	35.4	103,610	70,436	68.0
Total	219,215	195,628	80.2	84,733	22,495	26.5	242,595	192,033	79.2

The following figures show the amount of 1945 ACP payments certified through March 8, 1946, followed by the percentage of the estimated total payments:

Maine, \$153,769 (52.9%); New Hampshire, \$6,792 (5.4%); Vermont, \$29,788 (25.9%); Massachusetts, \$46,885 (21.9%); Rhode Island, \$7,236 (28.9%); Connecticut, none; New York, \$159,109 (14.5%); New Jersey, \$153,679 (19.2%); Pennsylvania, \$609,451 (38.1%); total, \$1,151,709 (26.6%). (Note: Payments reported for Connecticut in last week's "Agriculture in Action" were in error)

AMERICAN FARMERS AND
THE BRITISH LOAN

Britain is a hard-working nation which has seen some bad times -- some "crop failures." During the war, the British stood up under a savage and barbaric onslaught, such as we in America have not the experience to imagine. The war left Great Britain very badly off financially.

It is proposed that the United States lend -- not give -- Britain up to \$3-3/4 billion. This money will bear two percent interest per year. It will buy machinery, raw materials, food and other commodities, and services. Most of these things will come from the United States. Therefore, the people of the United States -- farmers, businessmen, everyone -- will benefit from the loan, because of the increased markets for American goods.

Why should American farmers be interested in the proposed British loan? Because farmers realize the value of properly used credit. They know that money kept in a vault, either by an individual or a nation, doesn't help business. They know that there must be an interchanging of money among nations as well as among individuals. If progressive, hard-working farmers, and businessmen as well, could not borrow money occasionally, trade would be at a standstill. The money they use helps the whole community as well as the borrowers.

The tides of international finance go in cycles, in exactly the same manner as those within a community. When one nation, or community prospers, its neighbors benefit. Britain cannot get the money she needs from any banking house or individual -- the sum is too great. She must get it from another nation. In this case, the United States is, fortunately, the banker.

LIME ORDERS 10% BELOW GOAL; DELIVERIES, 12%

Approximately 30% of the total estimated lime tonnage for 1946 has been ordered by county offices through March 1, 1946. Deliveries were only 8 percent of the estimated amount to be delivered. Goals for this period were 40 and 20 percent respectively. Factors affecting the slow deliveries are strikes in some of the lime plants, delays in others while unions have been negotiating new contracts, and a critical boxcar shortage. These conditions have improved tremendously but the heavy commercial demand indicates approximately 150,000 tons will be delivered on ACP orders in the Region during each of the next two months. Individual State reports follow:

State	Estimated Tonnage	Orders Rec'd From		Deliveries	
		County Offices	Percentage	Made	Percentage
Me.	92,000	25,431	28%	7,558	8%
N.H.	38,700	17,412	46	6,628	17
Vt.	73,915	40,412	55	26,166	35
Mass.	79,785	33,741	42	12,449	16
R.I.	8,000	3,120	39	801	10
Conn.	59,460	17,448	29	4,397	7
N.Y.	728,390	151,320	21	36,243	5
N.J.	100,000	36,141	36	12,013	12
Penna.	857,051	279,156	33	51,952	6
Total	2,037,301	604,742	30	158,207	8

SUPERPHOSPHATE REPORT THROUGH MARCH 1, 1946

The following report shows superphosphate ordered and delivered through March 1, 1946, under the 1946 Agricultural Conservation Program for the Northeast:

State	Estimated Tonnage	Orders Rec'd From		Deliveries	
		County Offices	Percentage	Made	Percentage
Me.	7,000	4,749.50	68	1,166.35	17
N.H.	8,940	3,184.30	36	341.00	4
Vt.	25,500	17,983.00	71	10,432.30	41
Mass.	18,880	8,793.70	46	3,084.14	16
R.I.	2,900	1,165.45	40	160.75	6
Conn.	7,200	1,680.50	23	471.25	7
N.Y.	127,401	50,461.70	40	2,389.80	2
N.J.	6,095	2,910.05	48	308.35	5
Pa.	45,835	1,581.95	3	595.25	Less than 1%
Total	249,751	92,510.15	37%	18,749.19	7%

BOWLES SAYS SUBSIDIES ARE VITAL

Unless food subsidies are continued beyond June 30, the stabilization of our economy is completely impossible, according to the Economic Stabilizer, Chester Bowles.

"If subsidies were to be removed on July 1 when our present authorization runs out, food prices would promptly move upward 8 percent," he told a farm conference recently at Topeka, Kansas.

"This would be a severe blow to millions of families living in the cities on narrow incomes. It would bring about widespread demands for wage increases and very probably the collapse of our wage stabilization program. And let's not forget that would not add a single penny to the income of our farmers."

"On the contrary, as wages moved higher, manufacturing costs would again move upward, and so would the prices of things you buy in the store. The increase in the cost of products and services would leave our farmers considerably worse off than they are today."

PLANT A VICTORY GARDEN AGAIN! Victory gardens planted in 1946 will help increase the American food supply, according to Chester Davis, organizing chairman of the Famine Emergency Committee. An abundance of home-grown food will be an important aid in releasing more wheat, fats, oils, and other foods for shipment to starving people abroad.

"The President and the Secretary of Agriculture have called for full effort again this year by the Victory Gardeners of the Nation . . . This is a definite and positive way in which a large percentage of our citizens can help in relieving the suffering of the starving peoples of the world," Mr. Davis says.

EGG PRICE REPORTS No discernable trend in New England egg prices was evident in the reports for the week ending March 7, 1946. Spotted declines in price in several New England counties contrasted with near-ceiling prices in neighboring areas. Prices were relatively steady in the southern New England States.

No significant change in New York egg prices was noted. The slight price increase which occurred in the previous week was maintained. Pennsylvania egg prices were slightly stronger during the past week.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

The output of chicks by commercial hatcheries during February was 5 percent larger than the February 1945 output, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported. Production was 116,729,000 chicks compared with 111,437,000 in February last year and the February (1940-44) average of 103,171,000. There is a great amount of uncertainty in the hatchery industry brought about mainly by the tight feed situation. Comments from hatcheries indicate varying degrees of optimism and pessimism in regard to the hatching season. The demand for broiler chicks continues light and there seems to be considerable delay in placing orders for chicks for farm flock replacements. The number of chicks booked for future delivery on March 1 was 3 percent less than the number booked on March 1 last year. There is a strong demand existing for sexed pullet chicks.

Larger production of chicks compared with February last year was reported in all but two sections of the country. These increases were 15 percent in the South Central States, 3 percent in both the West and East North Central States, 5 percent in the Pacific Coast States, 2 percent in the New England States and 1 percent in the mid-Atlantic States. Decreases reported were 11 percent in the mountain States and 6 percent in the South Atlantic States.

The following table shows the chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries in units of thousands.

State and Division	During February			Jan. thru Feb.		
	1940-44 Average	1945 1/	1946 2/	1945 1/	1946 2/	
Me.	622	728	655	1,166	1,280	
N.H.	1,565	2,112	2,196	3,843	3,860	
Vt.	116	122	177	163	246	
Mass.	2,951	3,386	3,555	5,869	5,325	
R.I.	232	317	285	634	463	
Conn.	2,176	2,769	2,741	5,190	4,450	
New England	7,041	9,434	9,609	16,855	15,624	
N.Y.	2,177	2,870	3,078	4,222	4,241	
N.J.	2,622	2,793	2,444	3,835	3,588	
Pa.	4,977	7,290	7,580	11,601	12,080	
Mid. Atlantic	9,776	12,953	13,102	19,653	19,913	
U.S.	103,171	111,437	116,799	166,389	162,835	

1/ Revised

2/ Preliminary

Radio Transcription
A. W. Manchester, Director
Northeast Region, Field Service Br.
Production & Marketing Adm., USDA
March 21, 1946 - 6:15 a.m.
Station WBZ - Boston, Mass.

The Feed Grain Program is Developing

The full details of what action is to be taken to conserve and distribute more evenly our supply of feed grains are still not available as I prepare this statement. Much has been announced, however, so that the practical aspects, so far as Northeastern feeders are concerned, seem to be reasonably clear.

First, as to the conservation of feed. Poultrymen are asked to cut poultry numbers enough so that they won't need more than 85 percent as much feed as they used last year. This, it is recognized, may leave us somewhat short of eggs and poultry meat next fall and winter, but we obviously can't feed more feed than there is to feed.

Pig feeders are asked to market their pigs by the time they weigh 225 pounds. This is a good normal weight. In fact, it is about the premium weight in ordinary times. But a good many pigs have been fed to substantially higher weights this last year. Those extra weights cost a great deal of feed. It takes more feed to add another pound of pork when the pig is overgrown.

Beef feeders are asked not to feed their animals to better than A grade. Putting on that last bit of perfection in finishing steers uses more feed than we can afford now (in order that somebody's steak may be just a little tenderer and juicier).

But, dairyman -- and it is important that there be no confusion about this -- dairymen are not asked to make any reduction in numbers or in rate of feeding unless they are using uneconomical amounts of grain.

I want to be sure that this is perfectly clear. It's the National policy to support milk production at as high a level as we are likely to get -- in fact, at a higher level than is likely.

The cow is a very efficient user of feed grains. She returns in human food more from the grain she eats than our other common domestic animals do. And milk is tops in food.

Some misunderstanding on this point may arise from the fact that feed mixers are to cut 15 percent in the amount of feed they mix. But this does not mean that the dairyman has to cut 15 percent in the amount of grain he is feeding. He is at liberty to supplement his mixed feed with ground oats or any other good unmixed ingredient that is available.

Of course, if the dairyman is feeding more than is really necessary to maintain his milk production -- and there are some who do -- he ought to cut down. It is an open question whether anybody is justified, under present conditions, in feeding over one pound of grain for every three pounds of milk his cows give. Many are getting high production with much less grain than that.

And when pasture comes, dairymen ought to take every advantage of it they can to reduce grain feeding. But dairymen are not asked, as other feeders are, to cut back their production. Care and economy in feeding is all that is asked of them.

There are two principal approaches to the problem of making grain generally available to farmers in the limited quantities that they will need when they have made the adjustments that are asked in livestock numbers.

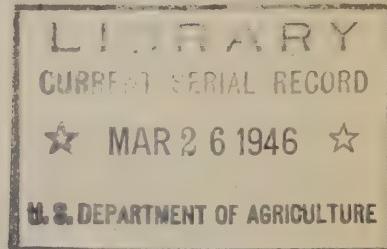
The first is a limitation of inventories. Measures are under discussion to stop further buying by those users of grain — all the way from manufacturers to feeders — who have over a 45-day supply of critical ingredients on hand or in shipment. That measure should leave what grain reaches the market for those who are most desperately short.

The other is limitation in use. Most manufacturers and mixers are to be limited to the use of 85 percent as much of the critically short grains as they used last year. In some cases the restriction is even sharper. It is believed that there should be enough grain to last through the season and to meet the most urgent demands from abroad if these limitations are adhered to.

The present situation was made more acute by the crop failures and starvation in much of the world. But even without those conditions, it is now clear that this country will have a problem on its hands to raise feed enough to produce all the milk, eggs, and meat that the people of this country will buy when they are fully prosperous.

To my mind, there is only one good answer to that problem. It is bigger yields per acre. There aren't very many more good acres to bring into production in this country. "More land" was the old answer, but it won't serve much longer.

But bigger yields hold great possibilities. The conservation program is laying the necessary foundation for those bigger yields — for feeding people the way people ought to be fed. The march of future progress on the land in America lies along the road of more conservation, higher fertilization and fuller use of the improvements that agricultural science is constantly developing.

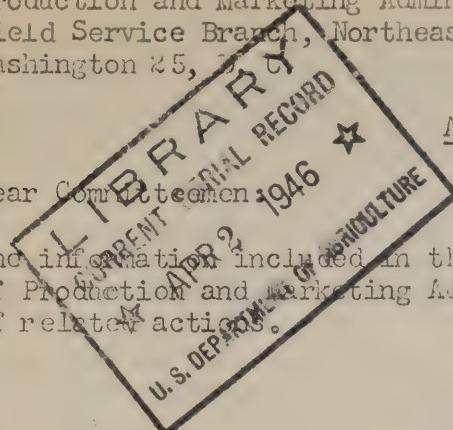


(Agriculture in Action — Issued weekly and distributed in the Northeast to State AAA Committeemen, State Offices of FSB; Farmer Fieldmen; County Offices in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New Hampshire; County Committeemen in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.)

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United States Department of Agriculture
Production and Marketing Administration
Field Service Branch, Northeast Region
Washington 25, D.C.

March 27, 1946



AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

Dear Committee

The information included in this letter is to assist you in the administration of Production and Marketing Administration programs and provide understanding of related actions.

A. W. Manchester

A. W. Manchester

Director, Northeast Region

THE FACE OF FAMINE

Tree bark, weeds, cottonseed hulls, are being eaten by starving Chinese in an effort to sustain life, said Dr. Raymond T. Moyer of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, upon his recent return from China.

The eating of mud has been reported from some famine areas and elm leaves are another item of diet, according to Dr. Moyer, who is Chief of OFAR's Far Eastern Division.

"We found most of the people sunk in apathy, their faces gray and drawn," he said, in describing a trip through Honan province. They had returned from the mountains -- where they were driven by the Japs -- to find their homes and fields burned. It was winter and they had only summer clothing, no food, no bedding, no shelter. Some were in the fields picking weeds. Many of them must be dead by now."

Country areas are in general worse hit than the cities, Dr. Moyer said, though bodies of those who had died of the combined effects of malnutrition and disease were often found on Shanghai streets.

Malaria is proving fatal to Chinese men and women weakened by lack of food. Typhoid, typhus, and dysentery are prevalent and smallpox is also found, according to the OFAR representative.

* * *

It was all in a day's work, the American soldier bitterly concluded as he watched the old Belgian lady systematically go about her rifling of the garbage can in Antwerp. Not only today and yesterday, but tomorrow and for a great many tomorrows . . . tomorrows that made up the whole of the foreseeable future. But what made it all the worse was the presence of the lean and mangy dog that was competing with the aged woman for the potato peels and the already well-graven bones. Neither dog nor woman paid attention to the presence of the other -- both were on the same level of starvation.

* * *

Austria -- Arrival of the first UNRRA wheat shipment in Austria was recently publicly celebrated in ceremonies at a Vienna bakery. Chancellor Figl said the arrival was "a happy day" for Austria, thanked UNRRA for the delivery and gave assurances that the wheat would be fairly distributed.

THE FOOD PROGRAM The drive to meet the food crisis is pretty well shaped up now. In every State the organization to promote food conservation is being perfected. Great numbers of public-spirited and humanitarian people are lending a hand and the general understanding of the need and what each one of us can do to help is spreading.

The full realization of the need, by all of us, is the first essential. For this is a voluntary program. Each is to do what he does because he wants to help or because he thinks that he ought to — not because somebody orders him to.

That's the finest kind of program and the one that's likely to last the longest and go the farthest. We have been facing grave issues on the international front in these last days. They have made plain again that there can be no way to lasting peace but by the way of good will. That starts with kindness — willingness to put up with things we don't like for the good of other people.

Those other people nowadays are likely to be a few thousand miles away. Our tolerance and kindness have to have breadth -- worldwide breadth now.

In this food crisis, kindness finds its first expression in the home. It calls for eating a little differently -- not so much bread and cereals, and less use of the frying pan.

I guess we can trust the women to see to that. They have a habit of practical kindness.

But we have a job of producing food, as well as of saving it. That falls mostly to the men.

Here's what it consists of here in the Northeast, as I see it.

For farmers in the areas where oats are harvested for grain, put in some extra oats -- or oats and barley mixed. And get seed of varieties that yield high under your conditions, if you can. It's grain that's needed -- not straw.

Plant a little more corn than usual unless you farm too far north for corn to ripen. And get a high-yielding, early-maturing variety.

Fertilize your hay and cut it earlier than you ever did before. That is, if the fertilizer is available, and the weather will let you cut it when you want to. Our fertilizer supply isn't expanding as fast as the demand. There were some upsets in fertilizer production, too, this year.

That "extra fertilizing" applies to the oats and corn, as well as the hay and the pasture. We are short of labor. We can't afford low yields. Better plant a little less, if we have to, and fertilize better.

If the pasture is fertilized, it will be ready for pasturing a little earlier, and when the pasture gets really good, the dairyman's job is to cut way down on grain feeding, if he is one of the dairymen who still have grain to feed. Every practical economy in grain feeding will help toward making the limited supply go around.

There are three food crops that ought to be emphasized.

• (continued next page)

(Continued from page 2)

The first is beans. We have had several bad years in a row for raising beans. Bean growers are pretty well discouraged and apt to shift to something else. But we are going to need those beans this year. And this might be a good year for raising beans. I'm not forecasting but I'm hoping our bean growers will try one more time.

The last reports showed that our plantings of potatoes are likely to be clear down to the danger point. With the small prospective acreages, only very high yields will give us potatoes enough. It doesn't seem wise, to me, to gamble that way in a food crisis. We'd better keep the acreage up this year.

The third is home gardens. Every farm ought to try for another good one this year.

Another critical crop is soybeans. They are raised in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and parts of New York -- but not an important crop in the rest of the Northeast. Like beans, they have been hit by bad weather the last few years. Growers are discouraged. But oil crops, and the protein that is left after the oil is extracted from them, are desperately needed. Here's another chance to serve — planting soybeans.

And one word to dairymen. We aren't going to have milk enough. If the downward trend in production keeps on, the shortage will grow to disaster proportions.

I know that hired help on dairy farms is almost impossible to get and that wages are very high, judged by any standard of the past. I hope that returns to growers are going to be high enough so that they can afford to pay those wages, if they can find the men to pay them to.

The full facts on what prices and returns for milk are going to be should be available before long. I hope that all dairymen who can, will keep their numbers of cows up until they have the whole story. A continued slump in milk production would be a body blow to the whole food program.

It's a fighting year on the food front — a fight not this time to win the war, but a fight against human suffering and for a lasting peace. This is a fight worth fighting. --- Radio Transcription, A. W. Manchester, Director

Northeast Region, Field Service Branch, USDA
March 28, 1946 - 6:15 a.m. WBZ - Boston, Mass.

INDIA TO GET U. S.
POTATOES TO EASE FAMINE

To relieve severe food shortages in India, the Department of Agriculture will purchase dehydrated white potatoes under loan provisions of the CCC price-support program in Idaho, Oregon, Nebraska, Colorado, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wyoming.

Persons wishing to sell dehydrated potatoes to the CCC will be required to pay farmers not less than the support prices for raw potatoes equal to the amount of dehydrated potatoes delivered to the CCC. The Department says that any existing potato surpluses in the Midwest and West result in part from a lack of transportation in the early season. Refrigerator cars have been in great demand. Heavy exports of U. S. potatoes have been made to Canada, Belgium, and France.

FARMERS PLAN BIG CROP
ACREAGE FOR 1946

Farmers intend to make 1946 another record food production year. Their March 1 planting intentions indicate $\frac{1}{4}$ million acres more crops will be planted this year than last. That is three percent below the national goals recommended in February, but many planting intentions were indicated before farmers learned of the real seriousness of the world food crisis. The intentions are revealed in a report by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The bright spot in the planting intentions report is in food grains and sugar. The picture for feed grains and oil crops is less encouraging in comparison with the goals.

Following are comparisons for 1946 planting intentions with 1945 production and 1946 goals.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>% of '45 Production</u>	<u>% of 1946 Goals</u>
Corn	100	95
Wheat	103	101
Oats	103	102
Barley	101	86
Flaxseed	86	81
Rice	104	106
Potatoes	95	99
Tobacco	106	102
Dry beans	95	80
Dry peas	88	79
Soybeans	86	88
Peanuts	94	119
Sugar Beets	120	90

The planting of this large acreage is in prospect despite the tight labor situation which is slow to improve and the fact that the volume of new farm machinery becoming available is not enough to meet demands. Repair parts for machinery also are difficult to obtain.

Weather conditions for carrying through with these plans are generally favorable. March weather favored seeding of oats earlier than usual in much of the Great Plains. The delaying effect of excessive moisture in the South has been more or less overcome by favorable March weather. The threatened drought in western Great Plains areas has been relieved by timely rains.

Numerous factors may modify the plans covered by the BAE report. The 1946 support price for soybeans was announced about the time farmers were making their reports. On the other hand, higher price ceilings also have been announced for corn and wheat. The increase in the support price for dry beans in 1946 also was announced after the intentions were reported.

LUMBER GOAL -
32 BILLION BOARD FEET

A production goal of 32 billion board feet of lumber has been set by the Civilian Production Administration.

Output in 1945 was 27.5 billion board feet — one sixth less than the 1944 output. Action production this year is forecast at 30 billion board feet. Strenuous efforts will be made to boost yield to the 32 billion goal. Demand is estimated at 35 billion board feet.

**ANOTHER BILLION-BUSHEL
WHEAT HARVEST POSSIBLE**

Prospects are good for another billion-bushel wheat crop in the U. S. this year. If realized, this would be the third billion-bushel crop in a row for wheat growers. The Department of Agriculture reports that farmers intend to increase their spring wheat plantings 300,000 acres above last year. Many of these intentions were collected before full information was available of the seriousness of the current world food crisis.

The general conditions of winter wheat — where plantings are nearly 4 percent above a year ago — are good. A harvest in excess of 750,000,000 bushels is forecast.

**CONTOUR CULTIVATION AND
STRIP CROPPING PRACTICES TIMELY**

Now is the time for farmers to be completing plans for more contour cultivation and strip cropping. With the spring plowing now in progress, this is the time that AAA committeemen are talking to farmers on the advantages of cultivation on the contour.

Cultivation on the contour and strip cropping is an immediate help to increase the production of grain crops. With America's farmlands in for at least another year of all-out food production, long-range soil strengthening has new practical significance.

Recent agronomic evidence points to contouring and strip cropping as aids to boost production.

SURPLUS PROPERTY

The War Assets Corporation says that sales of jeeps to veterans are now under way. Jeeps will be sold to veterans only, except for other specific meritorious requests to be approved by the Central Office.

Among articles of use to farmers currently being sold by the Corporation are: 6,797,452 screw type and drive type steel posts; army surplus barbed wire; 3,353 horses and mules; 39,000 sets of tent poles and canvas covering; 152,000 mountain tents; 56,000 plywood chests with hinged tops; ladders, including extension ladders.

Sales will be made to "priority claimants, wholesalers and retailers" throughout the Nation in line with Corporation policy of "giving first consideration to the broad national interest in rapid surplus property disposal as opposed to the interest of individuals or groups."

Farm veterans, through proper application with War Assets Corporation, can become priority claimants. Surplus property will be available to all farmers through regular trade channels.

**EXPAND DRIED
EGG PROGRAM**

A recent increase in the Government purchase program for dried eggs puts further strength under egg prices. The purchase program has been increased from 25 million to 45 million pounds of dried eggs. These eggs will be shipped to foreign countries, principally Great Britain, to help ease the food crisis. Purchases to date amounted to more than 28 million pounds, leaving 17 million pounds yet to be purchased.

ANDERSON STATES POSITION
ON PACE BILL

farm parity prices, to the Minimum Wage Bill now under discussion.

"I would urge that the Pace Bill, if it is to be considered by the Congress, should be carefully considered by agricultural groups . . . and should have thrown upon it the light of the most careful scrutiny by accountants and by experts in the field of farm prices," the Secretary added in a letter to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor.

He said that the Pace proposal to include labor costs in parity prices would increase present parity prices about one-third. While this increase, at first glance, seems attractive, the following considerations should be weighed, Mr. Anderson said;

1. Parity prices as now calculated are an accepted standard for farm prices. Farmers and their representatives should consider carefully before they revise the current parity index.

2. The Pace Bill would give lower parity prices than the present formula in periods of severe depression. That is because farm wage rates go up further and down further than prices paid, interest, and taxes (the basis for present parity index). The result would be that parity prices under the Pace Bill would be higher when the labor situation was tight and lower in case of depressions.

3. Enactment of the Pace Bill would accentuate the relative disparities which already exist between parity prices for several farm products.

4. Enactment of the Pace Bill also would upset the entire current price and wage stabilization program, especially as it relates to food. It also would disturb the present program for shipping more food abroad to relieve starvation. Corn and grain probably would be held off the market until the owners knew whether the Pace Bill would be approved by the House and by the President.

The Secretary concluded: "Perhaps parity prices should be revised and perhaps an allowance for hired wages should be included in such a revised index since they are actual cash costs, but there is no reason to believe that a 33 percent jump in parity prices and a shift away from the current purchasing-power concept of parity is to the interest of the farmers, entirely aside from its effects on the nonfarm front."

"CLEAR THE TRACKS" FOR MAINE
SEED POTATOES, SAYS I.C.C.

Maine potatoes. The order was released at the joint request of USDA and the Office of Defense Transportation.

A priority order by the Interstate Commerce Commission has the immediate purpose of "clearing the tracks" for railroad shipment of certified

The order provides: (1) Refrigerator car priority for certified seed potatoes over other car loadings; (2) Restriction of diversion or reconsignment of cars containing seed potatoes from Maine; and (3) No carrier can rebill or reship a refrigerator car loaded with certified seed potatoes.

"YOU-ALL" CAN EXPECT A REPORT

--from Ralph Graham, New Hampshire State PMA Director, and Larry Manwaring, Assistant Regional Director, pretty soon. This week they are in Biloxi, Mississippi, attending the Southern Regional Conference of State Committeemen and Farmer Fieldmen, the 27th - 29th. Program includes a tour to view ACP results on farms.

FEWER CHICKS THIS YEAR The output of chicks by commercial hatcheries this year will be much less than last year's record hatch, a survey by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics indicates.

The number of chicks booked for delivery during April and May is 25 percent under the number booked for the same months last year. Hatcherymen are trying to avoid overproduction in line with the indicated light demand for late spring and early summer.

The February output of chicks was five percent larger and the March 1-15 hatch about the same as last year. It is the number of chicks hatched after April which largely determines the size of annual hatch.

The greatest decrease in chick bookings is shown in the Mountain States and the least in the West North Central States. Percentage changes in various sections in comparison with the same periods last year are:

	Eggs Set March 1-15	Chicks Hatched March 1 - 15	Chicks Booked for Apr. & May Delivery
New England	- 5	- 5	- 40
Mid Atlantic	- 13	- 2	- 36
E. No. Central	+ 1	+ 6	- 30
W. No. Central	+ 7	+ 11	- 2
So. Atlantic	- 1	- 6	- 32
So. Central	+ 8	+ 3	- 33
Mountain	- 1	- 2	- 48
Pacific	- 10	- 7	- 45
Total	+ 1	+ 4	- 25

PROTEIN MEAL SET-ASIDE
RAISED TO 10% FOR APRIL

Processors will be required to set aside 10 percent of their April production of soybean, cottonseed, linseed and peanut meal, USDA announced on March 21.

Total shipments from January 21 through March 31, when the set-aside was five percent, were 52,000 tons.

Processors are being instructed to ship their set-aside meal to the following 35 shortage states: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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Czechoslovakia - The Minister of Agriculture reports a current shortage of 100,000 farm workers with an anticipated increase in the need for such workers due to the exodus of Sudeten Germans amongst whom there are about 500,000 farm workers. (Praha - 3/12/46)

Belgium - Total planting of winter wheat, winter barley, rye, spelt, meslin and winter rape is down about 11,000 hectares (1 hectare equals 2.471 acres) for 1945-46 compared with a year previous. Only small wheat plantings are expected this spring. (Brussels - 3/1/46)

"NOW HERE'S THE DIFFERENCE"

When the 1946 ACP enrollment training schools for community committeemen were held in Pennsylvania,

Ira Shoup, Forest County Chairman, addressed these groups in several counties. Commenting on the plan used this year whereby no farm allowances were established by formula, Mr. Shoup said, in part:

"Now here's the difference -- no farm has an individual farm allowance. Warren County and Forest County have an allocation of soil-building materials. Warren County is allocated 18,000 tons of lime. Now I presume that that is not far off of the total you used in 1945. That 18,000 tons is dropped into the lap of the County Committee, so that County Committee has more responsibility than it has ever had before. They didn't do that in Washington or Harrisburg this year. It is allocated according to the needs of agriculture. The next step would be the needs of farms. It comes back to this. There may be two farmers having 50 acres each. Under the soil system, each was entitled to the same amount of lime. Not any more. You will have to know his farm, and not only what he says he is going to do in 1946; his history is going to come into it. You will have to know his history before you can administer a program of that kind. There is the proposition to divide that on some kind of an equitable basis. I knew that the responsibilities were transferred to the County Committee and the Community Committees, but the real force of it didn't strike me until a week ago today. The more I thought about it, the more I thought it was all right. It scared me at first, but after rolling it over in my mind it seems to me that we can get together and work out a policy by which we are going to operate so that when you go out to a man you have enough background knowledge to work out what you think he needs in relation to other farms. You could present that to your community committee. They will, in turn, make recommendations on it. The responsibility is on you. Now this is what we are up against. It is new, and too, an additional responsibility.

"Now the question is -- are we ready for so much home rule, because that is what it is. Previous experience as a committeeman ought to help. But if we are experienced committeemen we have to recognize right away that we have to do things differently than we have before. I am thinking that we can shoulder it and shoulder it well. It isn't for lack of ability. It's for lack of attention to it. And you and I just have to give it just whatever attention is necessary and I would say that whatever you do, don't let down your farmers. Don't let down your County Committee."

ROtenone supply
MAY BE SHORT

U. S. imports of rotenone will be short of demand for 1946 crops, according to an advisory committee composed of Agriculture and State Department representatives.

One reason is crippling of transportation along the Amazon River, down which crude rotenone is transported to a Peruvian port. Another reason is the termination March 31 of a commodity agreement between Peru and the United States on rotenone. All of this insecticide used in the U. S. comes from So. America.

To increase the rotenone supply for U.S. farms, a new one-year agreement is being negotiated with Peru, under the present price arrangement of 18 cents a pound (f.o.b. Iquitos port).

* * *

Rumania - Soviet military authorities have informed the Rumanian Government that Soviet Army automobiles, horses, trucks, tractors and soldiers will be used in the Rumanian spring seeding campaign. (Bucharest - 3/15/46)

OPA SUPPORTS
RESTAURANT FOOD SAVING

To make effective the food saving recommendations of the National Famine Emergency Committee, the OPA has announced that restaurants and railroad dining cars may reduce servings of wheat and oil products without cutting prices.

Wheat and oil saved by this reduction in portions served to persons in public eating places will add to the amount of foodstuffs to be sent to starving people in Europe and Asia.

This is the second action taken by OPA to make possible wide cooperation with the food saving recommendations of the famine relief campaign. Earlier action allowed bakers to reduce weight of their products without taking price cuts.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE SHAPING UP "How the Northeast can do its part in meeting national food objectives" will be the theme of the Regional Conference scheduled for April 11-12 at Boston, Mass., according to the program committee.

or possibly April 11 instead,

On April 12/ Secretary Anderson will meet with the conference of State AAA Committeemen, State PMA Directors, Assistant State PMA Directors, Executive Assistants, and State Commissioners of Agriculture.

A working conference, the first day will be given over to meetings of committee groups after a brief opening discussion. The following committees will work up recommendations and report the following day:

1. Emergency Food Program - Harris Soule, Vermont, Chairman
2. Conservation Program - Ralph Graham, New Hampshire, Chairman
3. Dairy and Poultry - Frank Branom, Vermont, Chairman
4. Potatoes and Vegetables - Ferris Talmage, New York, Chairman
5. School Lunch and Direct Distribution - Robert Howard, N.Y., Chairman

1945 ACP PAYMENT
ESTIMATES REVISED

Estimated payments to farmers under the 1945 Agricultural Conservation Program in the Northeast States will total approximately \$5,900,000, according to a revised report.

Individual State estimates and the amount of payments certified through March 15, 1946, are listed below:

State	Estimated Payments	Certified to Date	Percentage
Maine	\$ 315,280	\$ 167,698	53.2
New Hampshire	55,004	11,642	21.0
Vermont	218,659	29,788	13.6
Massachusetts	305,715	65,131	21.6
Rhode Island	15,713	8,872	50.6
Connecticut	183,080	None	-
New York	1,934,503	199,915	10.5
New Jersey	801,716	133,679	16.7
Pennsylvania	2,070,350	609,451	28.1
Total	\$ 5,900,000	\$ 1,226,176	20.7

* * *

China - The Canton rice harvest outlook is poor due to insufficient rains. The main hope of alleviating the food shortage will be the arrival of relief supplies, which, although some UNRRA flour and canned milk have been distributed, have been inadequate. (Shanghai - 3/18/46)

USDA ANNOUNCES TURKEY
PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM

A price-support program to aid turkey producers during the present feed emergency was announced by the USDA. The program is intended for operation in the event that heavier-than-normal seasonal disposal of turkey breeding stock this spring results from the efforts now being made to conserve grain for human consumption abroad.

The program, applicable to any area where price-support operations prove necessary, provides for support to growers to reflect 90% of parity. Currently, this will mean a U.S. average farm price of 20.3 cents a pound for live turkeys, based on a national average price for breeder hens which will predominate in marketings this spring and which normally sell, as market birds, below the price of young stock.

To carry out the program, the USDA will buy dressed turkeys, largely breeder hens, from dealers, processors and cooperative associations, at prices which vary, according to four zones in which the purchases are made. The prices paid by the USDA for the dressed turkeys will reflect support averaging 90% of parity to the producer for live turkeys. Zone IV prices are listed below (Northeast).

Hens - Producer Support prices live weight	22.0 cents
Grade A Hens (New York Dressed)	30.0 cents
Toms - Producer support prices, live weight	21.0 cents
Grade A Toms (New York Dressed)	29.0 cents

Grade A dressed prices are for box packed turkeys at the point of purchase. Grade B dressed prices will be 1.5 cents a pound less on all classes.

EGG PRICE REPORTS

New England egg price reports show New England egg prices at or near ceiling for the week ending March 14. Rhode Island was the only State reporting a decrease in price from the previous week. The New Hampshire report contained the following comments: "Handlers report a heavy demand for eggs with offerings light. Offerings to the retail trade are reported growing lighter while the demand remains good.

Pennsylvania egg prices generally were not materially changed from the prices reported for the previous week. The report for the week of March 14 indicates an apparent continuation of the general leveling off of the downward price trend which was evident in the previous week's report.

MALNUTRITION SHRIVELS
THE CHILDREN

Mrs. Cecilia Davidson, welfare worker of New York City, who spent eight months in France working among children liberated from Germany reports:

"Everyone's first reaction was one of shock concerning the physical condition of these children. They are dwarfed from years of malnutrition. Physically they look half their ages with faces that are tired and old -- yet they speak like little old men. One little girl brought in what we thought was a baby about 17 months old. His little arms and legs had not developed and he was tiny in size. You can imagine how eerie it was to have this baby turn around and talk to us like an old man. He was over five years of age and he could not walk."

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